

(FY91 AASERT) IMPLICATIONS OF THE SMALL SCALE STRUCTURE
IN THE QUIET SUN FOR THE SOLAR WIND FLOW

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Principal Investigator

Shadia R. Habbal

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Smithsonian Institution
Astrophysical Observatory
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

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Office of Scientific Research/NL, Building 410, Bolling AFB, D.C. 20332-6448

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The AASERT Program was established to provide training for graduate and undergraduate students in the field of research complementing a program sponsored by the Department of Defense. Our parent program was sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and was entitled: *High Resolution Studies of the Structure of the Solar Atmosphere*. The main focus of our AASERT program, entitled *Implications of the Small Scale Structure in the Quiet Sun for the Solar Wind Flow*, has been to explore the physical characteristics of the fine scale magnetic structures in coronal holes which are believed to be the source region of the fast solar wind. Simultaneous multiwavelength observations of coronal holes made with the Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) Spectroheliometer on *Skylab* have shown the coexistence of hot and cool material extending outwards from the solar surface. While the structures characterized by emission at temperatures above 10^6 K are known as polar plumes and extend into interplanetary space, the cooler structures, most evident at temperatures around 5×10^4 K, are called macrospicules as they are reminiscent of giant spicules. The temporal variability of the emission from macrospicules is very prominent on the shortest time scale available in the data, namely one to two minutes. The variability of the emission from polar plumes is not established. The projects sponsored under this program involved both data analysis and numerical modeling. Our AASERT grant sponsored two undergraduates and one graduate student. One of the major obstacles encountered during this program was finding students enrolled at Harvard who were interested in solar physics and who would also satisfy the US citizenship requirement. Unfortunately, at the time when we were attracting excellent candidates to this program, our request for a no cost extension could not be granted.

Eric Wood, a graduate student in the Astronomy Department at Harvard, started to work on a simple model of macrospicules. We assumed a two-dimensional distribution of bipoles below the solar surface, and a density and temperature distribution above the surface. The goal was to explore the subsequent magnetic configuration taking into account the balance between magnetic and gas pressure. After working on this project for a few months during the summer, Eric decided that he did not wish to pursue a thesis in solar physics. Because of the short time spent on the project, no publication followed from that work.

Jennifer Yeh, an undergraduate in Physics at Harvard, worked on data

analysis in search of periodicities in the time variability of the emission from polar plumes. She explored limb observations made within a coronal hole region by the EUV spectroheliometer on *Skylab*. Several techniques, in particular a Fourier analysis, were used. The results of the study showed that no such periodicities were present, and that the emission was rather chaotic in nature. The difficulty encountered with the coronal emission was the low count rate in the Mg X line. Jennifer was also involved for a short time with Fe X and Fe XIV coronal emission line data obtained from Sacramento Peak Observatory during coordinated observations with the SPARTAN 201 flight on 10, 11 April, 1993.

To search for coronal hole observations, Gretchen McPhee, a first year undergraduate, prepared a catalog for the EUV/*Skylab* data. The catalog involved entering the complete list of observations with reference to wavelength, region observed, and quality of the data. Gretchen went through the 16 logbooks of the EUV/*Skylab* data and checked the corresponding microfiche collection to complete this catalog. Since its completion, the catalog has made the search for specific events extremely efficient.

No qualified students were available during the second year of funding.

In the third year, Kevin Berney, an undergraduate, joined our group to work on a project for his junior thesis. The subject of his thesis entailed comparing three different data sets taken from daily observations of the Sun: Kitt Peak magnetograms, He I 10830 Å spectroheliograms, and full disk x-ray pictures from Yohkoh, the Japanese-American soft X-ray telescope. The purpose of his project was to define the boundaries of coronal holes as detected in these different spectral lines, and at different heights of the solar atmosphere. The novel aspect of this work was that we found that there are many more small scale coronal holes that appear on the solar surface, as defined by their signature in He I 10830 Å than had been previously known. Such finding is extremely important for understanding the source region of the solar wind, in particular the wind originating from low latitudes, and believed to be the source region of the slow solar wind.

At the time we requested a no cost extension, a graduate student, Lorraine Allen, had started to work with us on the modeling of the flow of neutral hydrogen in the solar wind. The project involved solving multifluid solar wind equations by expanding our recently developed multi-fluid time-dependent

code. The project is of essential importance for the interpretation of the data from the UV Lyman α experiment on *Spartan* and the UVCS experiment on *SOHO*.